

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Haines Borough****Project Title:**

## Haines Borough - Boy Scout Camp Upgrades

**State Funding Requested: \$ 100,000****House District: 5 - C**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

The requested funding will go towards drilling a well, building bathrooms, and constructing cabins on the property donated to the Boy Scouts.

**Funding Plan:****Total Cost of Project: \$200,000**

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
Local Funds	\$745,000					
Total	\$745,000					

*Explanation of Other Funds:**Volunteer labor in clearing trails.***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The Boy Scout Camp in Haines hosts Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Venturing youth from all of the the US. Its particular focus is on providing camping opportunities for Scouts from Alaska ranging from Metlakatla to Nome. The Great Alaska Council of Boy Scouts of America has decided that this camp in Haines is the jewel of the nation and would like to send Scouts from all over the nation to Haines to earn their merit badges and to have the experience of a lifetime. This in turn would have a huge economic impact on the Haines Borough with the influx of Scouts and parents.

The Boy Scout program in Haines caters to both boys and girls and is a great activity for youth to participate in.

**Project Timeline:**

Funding would be secured in July of 2008 with construction beginning shortly thereafter...this money is to complete projects that have already begun.

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Haines Adventure Boy Scout Camp

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Contact Name: Robert Venables, Borough Manager

Phone Number: 907-766-2231

Address: P.O. Box 1209, Haines, AK 99827

Email: rvenables@haines.ak.us

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

**Kaci Schroeder**

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**From:** Greg Podsiki [gregpodsiki@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2008 7:23 AM  
**To:** Kaci Schroeder  
**Subject:** Re: CIP Guidelines

Representative Bill Thomas  
 State Capitol  
 Juneau Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Thomas,

The Great Alaska Council, Boy Scouts of America request funding of \$150,000 for urgent and necessary upgrades to the Boy Scout Camp, located in Haines, Alaska. Last year you approved our full budget but the governor cut it in half. We were given \$100,000 dollars to begin building the essentials but that is not enough. The following is a list of costs that we submitted last year

1. Drill a Well on the property.....\$ 35,000.00
2. Build a bathroom and shower facility on site.....\$ 100,000.00
3. Construct two cabins on site to house youth.....\$ 65,000.00

Last summer the well was drilled, and the plans are being drawn up at this time to put in the septic system and build the bathroom and shower facility. However we there is not enough money to complete this essential step of the project. Reports from the National office of the Boy Scouts of America indicate that there is a very long line of scouts through-out the nation who are signed up to for fill their dream of coming to a camp in Alaska. If we build it, they will come.

I am hoping that this year our state representatives and our governor will fund this project completely. In addition to the two cabins I am hoping for funding for a third cabin. This high adventure based camp will permit 14 scouts in each cabin. Forty two scouts each week will bring approximately \$1000 to the Haines Borough for camp and excursion usage. In addition they will likely spend another two or three hundred dollars eating at restaurant, buying gifts and extra gear Also they will be spending money for transportation. Often these scouts bring their families with them who stay in local hotels having their own adventures while their sons and daughters have theirs.

The site of this camp is literally a stones through from a public ocean shore where these high adventure scouts will be able to put in their kayaks. The director of the Great Alaska Council refers to this camp as the "jewel of scout camps", because of the areas pristine beauty and the convenient access to explore it. We have two elderly men who are anxious to support this camp financially with their private funds. They will not help in building the camp but will set up a very large trust fund. The interest from it will be used for the maintenance of the facility. However, both of these men are elderly with existing health problems and I am afraid becoming impatient. They want to see that the camp is funded, has a final plan and the means of building it before they will donate this very large sum of money. This camp will be self sustaining and no further money will be asked for from the state.

How unusual to have such a wonderful economic base for the people in Haines that includes the money necessary to maintain it. I hope this year our request will be met and that we will not have to ask you ever again for money to complete this facility

Sincerely Yours,  
 Gregory Podsiki, Haines Community board for the Haines High  
 Adventure Boy Scout Camp.



**GREAT ALASKA COUNCIL  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

**Maritime District Juneau, AK 99801**

**907-723-2879 voice or 1-800-478-9549 toll-free voice  
907-338-6273 fax**

**email: [Lkadinge@bsamail.org](mailto:Lkadinge@bsamail.org) home page: [www.scoutingalaska.org](http://www.scoutingalaska.org)**

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Representative Bill Thomas  
Room  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

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Dear Representative Thomas:

In regards to our discussion regarding the Haines Scout Camp, please note the following list of donations already secured:

- Donation of Land from the Haines Borough valued at roughly \$650,000
- Road into camp donated by Southeast Roadbuilders valued at \$45,000
- Octagonal pavilion built on site by the Schnabel family valued at \$20,000
- Current cabin on site valued at \$30,000
- Thousands of hours of volunteer labor in clearing trails, stumps, etc.

If you have any questions regarding any of the following projects feel free to contact Greg Podsiki, or myself for any clarification.

Sincerely,

Lee A. Kadinger

Greg Podsiki

Bill,

March 3, 2007

It was just one year ago that Bill Haines and Lee Kedinger came to visit the Scout leaders in Haines and to explain that we were now part of the Great Alaska Council. We were very excited about this because this meant that our kids would get more attention, be included more on a larger scale and have more opportunities to participate in more scouting events. This council also can afford to train our leaders and pay for their travel when necessary. These are things we have had to battle over in the past when we belonged to the S.E. Council. This meeting also gave us the opportunity to "sell" the big boys our vision of a state or even national or international scout camp right here in little ol Haines Alaska. We squirmed in our seats ready to jump in when ever Bill mentioned the difficulties in finding camps for a long waiting list of scouts across the nation wanting their dream trip to Alaska to come true. Bill had never been to our property and really had no intention of discussing the possibilities of building "our" camp to a grater level other than local. Our persistence paid off and the next morning in the twilight of a cold, crisp winter morning with the full moon still hanging in the sky, Dwain Draper gave Bill and Lee a tour of the property. They caught their flight to Juneau and by 11:00 a.m. that day I had a message on my machine to call them.

I was so excited by what they said that I immediately called some of the other people who attended the previous nights meeting. Bill was so intrigued by the scenery and location of the camp, (just across the road from the ocean), that he referred to the future scout camp as the "jewel" of Boy Scout camps in America! In a nut shell he said, "IF WE BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME". There are thousand of kids in the U.S. and Canada that are waiting even now to come to Alaska for their life time scouting adventure. Bill promises that once we build the facilities our camp would be filled to capacity. If we are able to expand the boundaries of our property by acquiring more acreage from the borough, the numbers will increase. Eventually, if we are able to get a total of 200 acres, we can plan on having 100 to 150 youths her each week through-out the summer. Often families of scouts travel with them on these great adventures, preferring to stay in hotels or bed and breakfast facilities and partake in less wilderness adventures such as shopping, and bus tours.

Two very important things will happen for Haines. Another economic increase for our business people and a first class camp facility to be used by our youth. The economic increase brought to Haines may just be seasonal, but it is guaranteed, every summer, no anxiety over weather or not ~~they~~ will be here like we have with the cruise ship industry. These kids and their adult leaders and families need lots of groceries, and want to bring home Alaskan gifts for their friends. The camp would provide summer employment for grounds keeper, guides and assistant guides, (our own scouts who are 16 or older qualify for this), Imagine the impact of even 10 families each week staying in town and eating in our restaurants and spending at our gift shops! Many cruise ship passengers are lucky to get two or three hours to spend their money. Benefits to our own youth are huge. I know from experience how hard it is, and expensive to send kids to camp in Juneau; ferry schedules, weather, hotel stays while waiting for the camp dates. Rainbow Glacier camp is full all summer, and for those families preferring a non religious camp for their

kids....forget it! The camp will be a high adventure base camp. The kids who visit will be out kayaking, hiking, rock and ice climbing, rafting, exploring and even scuba diving.

I have contacted all the outdoor expedition companies in town as well as individuals who would like to earn some income in the summer guiding. Annie Boyce, Paul Swift, C.J.Jones, and kids like Chandler Kemp, J.J. Lende, Kee Heywood, and my son Forest are all interested in guided hikes up our local mountain trails. The Boy Scouts would train these guides and cover them with liability insurance. Chilkat Guides, Alaska Mountain Guides, Glacier Valley Tours, Rainbow Glacier Tours, Chilkat Cruises are also very, very interested. The goal is to eventually train all of our own guides and buy all of our own equipment to save on costs. However we would still need transportation to Skagway for kids who were hiking the Chilkat Trail etc.

I am enclosing copy of a proposal from Alaska Mt. Guides, not because we have picked them to head this off, but to give you an insight as to the kind of unique adventures these kids are in for. What kid wouldn't want to do this stuff? Alaska Mt. Guides is just one of several companies interested at this time. We have every intention of keeping money in town as much as possible and as I said eventually train our own guides and get our own equipment. The other companies such as Chilkat Guides have also given me Itineraries.

Remember.....IF WE BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME! I and many Haines people are hoping you will push for this funding. We really need seed money immediately to get the ball rolling this summer. Some good construction and road building jobs will come of this also. I have talked to many, many people including our local representatives and they are all for it, I have not found one person in Haines that is not.

Sincerely yours,

Greg Podsiki, Venture Scout leader

p.s. Keep in mind that this camp is for boys and girls, and that any group with liability insurance can rent the facilities in the off season. Did you know that I have 27 highschool kids in my Venture Scout Group and that half of them are girls? In the two years since I got this group organized we have done the following; ice climbed, rock climbed, deer hunted in Hoonah, taken a three day river kayak class and expedition in White Horse, Ocean Kayaked, helicopter to the top of the ice fields in Skagway and dog sledged, snow machined, built snow caves and slept in them, competed at the annual Frost Bite Boy Scout Competition and came in second place, ( our teams had 6 girls and 6 boys and you should have seen those girls on the two man saw!), camped on Pyramid Island a couple times as well as white water rafted in the Yukon and many camping trips.



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Room  
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Juneau, Alaska 99811

*Boys  
Scouts  
of  
America*

Page 1

Dear Representative Thomas:

The Great Alaska Council, Boy Scouts of America requests funding for **\$200,000** for urgent and necessary upgrades to the Boy Scout Camp, located in Haines, Alaska. The Haines Scout Camp is relatively young in its existence. The current site is primitive with a few structures on the property. There is no electric, water, or lodge facilities on site.

The camp hosts Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Venturing youth from all over the United States and Alaska. Its particular focus is on providing camping opportunities for Scouts from Alaska including communities ranging from Metlakatla to Nome and Juneau to Anchorage. Our goal is to be able to have Scouts come to the Haines Scout Camp each year for adventure, merit badge and rank advancement, youth leadership development, and team building.

The Great Alaska Council would like to dramatically increase the usage of this facility by offering it as a High Adventure Base Camp for Venturing youth. We have currently received donations for a road into the camp which was completed in 2004. In addition to the road, we have received donations to build the current cabin on site as well as the octagonal pavilion.

The funding that we are seeking will enable three primary areas of emphasis:

1. Drill a Well on the property..... **\$ 35,000.00**
2. Build a bathroom and shower facility on site..... **\$100,000.00**
3. Construct two cabins on site to house youth..... **\$ 65,000.00**

The first two projects, being the well and the bathroom facilities, are immediately necessary to begin bringing youth to the camp. Without them, it is very difficult to be able to offer a program at the camp on a regular basis. Therefore, If the full funding of \$200,000 is not available, please see the first \$135,000 as essential.

Member of United Way



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The Great Alaska Council, Boy Scouts of America has no funds for undertaking such a project without the aid of an appropriation from the state, so this appropriation is essential to the continued viability of the scout camp to insure a practical facility for future generations of scouts and the greater public. Conversely, The Great Alaska Council, Boy Scouts of America is excited to involve the volunteers in the construction process which will help lower costs overall.

These funds, if allocated, are for a facility that is of larger public use. Rental facilities are of this type are necessary in Haines and only increase the amount of Positive Youth Programming that continues to make Haines a great community. This upgrade would allow many more groups and public rentals that currently cannot be served in the area.

The grant of funds will be to the Great Alaska Council, Boy Scouts of America which is a private non-profit 501 (c)3 of the Boy Scouts of America, one of the few organizations that receives its charter from the United States Congress.

Please let me know if you need any more information on this grant request.

Yours in Scouting, *the committee for building the Scout Camp.*

*Greg Podzicki*  
Greg Podzicki

*Ron Horn*  
Ron Horn

*Ann Marie Palmeri*  
Ann Marie Palmeri

*Jessie L. Grant*  
Jessie L. Grant

*Gary Lindholm*  
Gary Lindholm

*Ron Malone*  
Ron Malone

Member of United Way





## **HAINES BOROUGH, ALASKA**

**P.O. BOX 1209 • HAINES, ALASKA 99827**

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Fire Dept. 907.766.2155 • (fax) 907.766.3373

February 28, 2008

The Honorable Representative Bill Thomas  
Alaska State Capitol Building  
Room 434  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Re. Boy Scout Support

Dear Representative Thomas:

The Haines Borough has long supported the activities and programs of the Boy Scouts. The Great Alaska Council last year unveiled plans to develop a summer camp in Haines (on land donated in part by the Haines Borough).

The Legislature approved \$200,000 in funding for this effort in the proposed FY08 budget but half of that funding was line-item vetoed by the Governor. The Boy Scouts have used the funds received to drill a well and will install a septic system this coming spring. They have partial funding for the shower house and will yet need funds for the construction of the first three cabins which will allow them to begin their regular programs of hosting weekly groups of Scouts in Haines.

Local contributions to the Boy Scouts program in Haines have exceeded \$50,000. Other donors are waiting in the wings to establish an endowment that will fund the long-term maintenance of this new infrastructure. Support for this worthwhile youth project is timely and will pay dividends in many ways for years to come.

The Haines Borough appreciates any and all support you can give to help the Boy Scouts complete their facility. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

Fred Shields  
Haines Borough Mayor